

JOHNSTOWN SWIFT AGAIN BY FLOODS.

Heavy Rains Cause the River to
Overflow and Fill the Streets
with Swirling Torrents.

HOUSES AND BRIDGES TORN DOWN.

Many People Escape Drowning by
Being Taken from Their
Homes in Boats.

FEARS THAT HORRORS MAY FOLLOW

A Log Boom Is Said to Have
Broken and May Crash
Into the Town.

NO LIVES YET REPORTED LOST.

But Some Parts of the City Are
Cut Off and Deaths There
Are Apprehended.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Feb. 16, 1891.—Johnstown is experiencing many of the horrors of the flood of June, 1889. Owing to continued and heavy rains last night the river began rising this morning, and by noon had reached an alarming height. From that time on the volume of water increased more rapidly, the river rising at the rate of one foot an hour.

All the works of the Cambria Iron Company were shut down early in the day, and the pupils in the public schools were dismissed.

As it was impossible to reach the Pennsylvania Railroad with wagons, a freight depot was established uptown, the cars being run in on a switch from the Cambria Iron Company's works.

RILEY'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Early in the day the new Walnut street bridge, in course of erection, had been carried away, and some of the streets in the low part of the city were under water. As this bridge floated down stream it struck an iron bridge belonging to the Cambria Iron Company, where a large number of men were stationed to protect it from damage. Their efforts were without avail, as the structure was carried from its moorings. It was held for a few minutes by ropes which had been securely fastened, but just as it broke away the discovery was made that one of the workmen named Riley was on the floating bridge, and it looked as if he would drown.

A rope was thrown Kelly, who he quickly tied around his body, and as he floated under the great stone bridge strong hands caught the end which he threw them, and amid much excitement he was safely drawn to the top of the bridge.

TAKEN FROM HOME IN BOATS.

By three o'clock many of the streets were under water and hundreds of families were hurriedly getting into boats and being removed to places of safety. About the same time the large bridge at Poplar street broke loose with a crash and came riding majestically down the Stony Creek. As it struck the new Franklin street bridge there was imminent danger that it would carry away that structure, but fortunately it withstood the shock.

The floating structure, however, carried the Cambria bridge along with it, and as all other bridges had been carried off during the day the different sections of the city were left without means of communication, except the south side by way of the Franklin bridge and over the railroad stone bridge.

PEOPLE THOROUGHLY ALARMED.

The people were now thoroughly alarmed, and as the water was as high as on the day of the flood just preceding the breaking of the reservoir, the scenes and incidents were much repeated. Those of that time. Boats were brought into requisition and women and children hurriedly taken to places of safety.

A notable difference, however, was observed in the actions of the people as contrasted with the great disaster. Instead of trying to save their furniture and property, a few necessary articles of clothing only were taken, and then the house was locked up and abandoned.

On Front and Chestnut streets, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets, nearly everybody had deserted their homes long before dark, and the water was all over the first floor of the houses.

The Millville schoolhouse, which was used as a morgue after the great flood, was under water to the depth of several feet at six o'clock, and the engine and hose near by floated down through the street.

SAVING A WOMAN AND CHILD.

A number of houses adjoining soon began to move. In one of them, which was thought to be deserted, a woman and child appeared at the upper window. As the house slowly moved toward the great stone bridge the woman, after looking appealingly around, was about to cast herself into the waters, but was restrained by voices on the bank telling her help was near. In a moment two stalwart young men appeared in a boat. They rowed under the window, got the woman and child in the boat and soon landed them on the shore, where they were received with great applause.

The house, which was a small frame structure, floated on down through the arches of the stone bridge and was destroyed.

A young man on horseback, while attempting to rescue several parties at another part of the stream, was thrown into the water and narrowly escaped drowning.

FEARS THAT LIVES MAY BE LOST.

No lives had been reported lost when darkness began, but as communication with the most dangerous parts of the town is now cut off it is feared casualties may have happened.

The stone bridge is a menace to the safety of the town. The water cannot flow freely through the arches, and it is feared if much driftwood now comes down it will gorge and flood the whole town to a great depth.

The Pennsylvania Railroad have stationed a crew with an engine and wrecking car just east of the stone bridge, and they will try to keep the arches unobstructed and protect the property of the company.

A LOG BOOM MAY SWEEP THE TOWN.

About dark there was a rumor that a large boom up the Stony Creek, containing about ten million feet of logs, had broken, and the wildest excitement prevailed, as the water at this time was flowing through most of the streets. It was evident if those logs came riding down on the top of the flood they would crush through houses and make terrible destruction. The boom is twenty miles up the stream and no direct news can be had, but those who are in a position to know think it will surely break if the water continues to rise.

Mr. S. H. Taker, president of the Johnstown Lumber Company, which owns the boom, says he can get no communication before morning, but believes it will not break. His lumbermen report

that there are very deep snows still in the mountain. The rains which still continue and the extremely warm weather will cause the rivers to rise much more before morning.

HALF THE CITY UNDER WATER.

This being the situation, very few people will go to sleep here to-night. The cellars of all business houses are flooded, and most stores were closed early and the people were engaged in looking after the welfare of their families.

By midnight fully one-half the city was under water, the depth varying from two to ten feet. By the aid of wags, horses and boats the people were taken out safely. The gradual rise in the rivers and the early alarm that was taken largely contributed to the safety of this work, although a number of narrow escapes were reported.

Several horses and a number of cattle were drowned, but all live stock has now been taken to higher ground.

In addition to the destruction of all the bridges but one the chief loss has been the damage of household goods. This, in many sections, has been very serious, as people did not take the time to lift carpets or store their goods away, but when the alarm came hurriedly closed their doors and damped.

LOSSES OF MERCHANTS.

Considerable loss is also sustained by the flooding of goods in the cellars of business houses, as even where the water did not run in the streets the back water from the sewers did damage. Owing to the water covering the floors of the City Prison the doors were thrown open and the seven prisoners confined released.

The people are still greatly excited over the report that the log boom will break and the streets are crowded with excited men running hither and thither. A mounted patrol has been established and every precaution taken to give immediate warning of impending danger.

Shortly after twelve o'clock the rivers became stationary, and signal service officers announced that the indications were that they would shortly begin to subside. This helped to quiet the excitement and many have abandoned their watch and sought repose.

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DEATH'S HARVEST IN MINE AND ON RAIL.

Four Coal Miners Entombed
in a Burning Shaft in
Pennsylvania.

SMASHED BY A HEAVY STONE

Curious and Fatal Accident to a Railroad
Car at Pittsburgh—A Bad Smash-
up in North Carolina.

SCOTTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 16, 1891.—The Meyer mine, about three miles from this place, is on fire. Four men are understood to be entombed, with little prospect of their being rescued. A large body of men are at work trying to subdue the flames and rescue the imprisoned miners.

The fire was kindled by a miner accidentally dropping a naked lamp at the bottom of the shaft, which is 166 feet deep. The lamp exploded, igniting the accumulated mine gas, which exploded with a terrific report and scattered the flame in every direction. The mine caught fire and the large shaft used for ventilating the mine was destroyed and the interior seems to be one mass of flame.

Moutz Creek has been turned from its course into the mine shaft and is pouring a large quantity of water into the abyss.

The Meyer coal plant, one of the largest in the region, employs 600 men. The mine at this place had refused to join the ranks of the strikers, and the works were running full. Fifty miners were at work at the time of the explosion. All escaped except the four prisoners.

CRUSHED BY A FALLING ROCK.

A YOUNG WOMAN KILLED AND OTHERS HURT
ON A PENNSYLVANIA TRAIN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 16, 1891.—A rock crashed into a car on the Washington Pennsylvania express on the Chartiers branch of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad this morning, killing one young woman and seriously injuring several others.

The killed—
Fleming, Miss Clara, aged nineteen; head crushed and otherwise badly mangled.

The injured—
Baldwin, Miss Mamie, aged nineteen; cut about the head, breast and arms.

Donohoe, J. F., aged 20; badly hurt about the head and chest.

Unknown young man, badly bruised.

They were all students bound for the educational institutions in this city.

The rock which had been falling for twenty-four hours had loosened the dirt and stones from the hillside and small landslides were encountered all along the line, but nothing serious occurred until the train had passed the Point bridge within the limits of Pittsburgh at twenty minutes to nine. Here Duquesne Heights overlooks the tracks.

The train was running at about ten miles an hour. Just as it passed the bridge a rumbling sound was heard, followed an instant later by a terrific crash which caused the train to stop.

The engineer reversed his lever and the train suddenly came to a standstill.

A third of the train had been struck, having become loosened by the rain, had rolled down the terrible precipice and crashed into the side of the third coach. Miss Fleming and young Donohoe occupied a seat in the third coach, and the blow struck the car. Miss Fleming was killed instantly, but Donohoe was not seriously hurt.

The train was stopped for some time before it struck the car. She screamed and attempted to escape, but her flight was arrested by the crushing of the side of the car, a portion of the wood-work striking the young lady.

DEATH ON THE TRESTLE.

A RAILROAD TRAIN IN NORTH CAROLINA JUMPS
THE TRACK WITH FATAL RESULTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 16, 1891.—The mixed passenger and freight train on the Chester and Annapolis Narrow Gauge Railroad jumped the track on the trestle two miles south of Newton this afternoon.

The killed were—
HOAG, J., fireman, Chester, S. C.

MORROW, H. M., Cleveland county, N. C.

ROSS, W. W., Chester, S. C.

The seriously injured were—
COLLIER, FRANK, Catawba, N. C.

DUNLAP, C. C., conductor, Chester, S. C.

JOHNSTON, M., Gastonia, N. C.

LITTLE, the Rev. J. M., Dallas, N. C.

The dead and wounded have been moved to Newton and the doctors are now dressing the wounds of the injured.

Many of the parties are well known in Charlotte, and some have relatives living in this city.

TRAMPLED IN A PANIC.

A BURNING OIL CAR STAMPEDES A CROWD AND
MANY PEOPLE WERE HURT.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 16, 1891.—While a shifting crew were making up a freight train to-night in the yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Thirty-fourth street the sudden jar produced by coupling two oil cars set their inflammable freight on fire. The blaze quickly spread and despite the utmost efforts of the trainmen soon communicated to other cars. Two alarms of fire were turned in, and after a hard battle the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Eight out of twelve tank oil cars that were coupled together and five loaded coal cars were destroyed.

The flames from the burning oil attracted thousands of people to the scene, who lined the high banks along the railroad and watched the efforts of the firemen to overcome the fire. Suddenly one of the oil cars exploded and the burning oil was blown high into the air. The crowd made a wild rush for safety, and many were knocked down and trampled, and some were badly injured.

Among those most seriously hurt were policeman John Green, arm broken; John J. Fitzpatrick, injured about body and legs; Benjamin Shallosens, a boy, arm broken; and a man named Hertz, injured about head and back. All the above were removed to the hospital, but many others were taken to their homes by their relatives.

Traffic on all the tracks at the point where the fire occurred was delayed for three hours. Officers of the railroad are at this time endeavoring to estimate the loss to-night with any accuracy.

CHARGED WITH WIFE MURDER.

BANKER COWLES, OF NEW-YORK, IN JAIL UNDER
A SERIOUS ACCUSATION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

CLARK, Neb., Feb. 16, 1891.—Samuel Cowles, president of the Pacific Bank, and one of the oldest citizens of this city, was arrested at noon, charged with having murdered his wife on February 4.

Since the discovery of the crime the city has been much excited. Mrs. Cowles was choked to death in her bedchamber. Her screams attracted attention, and when neighbors rushed in the husband was found lying apparently unconscious on the floor, with blood streaming from a wound in the head, while the body of Mrs. Cowles was stretched on the bed, with the imprints of the murderer's fingers in her throat.

The house was ransacked as if by burglars, and some money and jewelry was missing. When revived, Cowles told how a masked burglar had rushed into the room, breathing fire and cutting his way through the door, and immediately offered \$5,000 for a clue as to the murderer.

Old Fellow and Mason. The murdered woman was a society leader, and never known to have quarreled with her husband.

PROTECTED MURDERERS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL TAYLOR'S ACTION CONCERN-
ING JUGRO AND WOOD.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 16, 1891.—Attorney General Taylor today served upon Roger M. Sherman, attorney for Shibuya Jugro, the Japanese murderer now awaiting execution by electricity in Sing Sing Prison, the petition and notice of his proposed motion March 9 to the United States Supreme Court to dismiss the appeal from a denial of a writ of habeas corpus granted Jugro by Judge Lacombe on January 7, or that the order so appealed from be affirmed, on the ground that the appeal was taken for delay only, and on the further ground that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction of said appeal, and that the question on which it depends is so frivolous as not to need further argument; or that the motion to dismiss or affirm the appeal is denied that the said appeal be advanced for argument.

MR. TAYLOR'S BRIEF.

The Attorney General in his brief in the case says substantially that if the Court shall be of the opinion that it has jurisdiction by reason of the fact that it is a writ of habeas corpus, it is his duty to present the appeal, and the order appealed from should be affirmed. But in any event it is respectfully submitted that the authorities of the State of New York are honestly endeavoring to enforce the laws that have been enacted for the protection of the people of the State, and the public interests demand that a speedy determination of this case should be had. And if this Court is of the opinion that it has jurisdiction, it is respectfully submitted that the error was committed by the Oyer and Terminer of New York in passing sentence before the expiration of the term of this Court, and that the previous appeal of Jugro, the order made herein by Judge Lacombe denying the writ of habeas corpus should be reversed, notwithstanding the fact that the judgment has now been entered and the mandate of this Court sent down, then an order should be at once made requiring the attorney for the appellant to file the citation with the clerk of the Circuit Court, and that that officer be thereupon ordered to file a transcript of the record, with the clerk of this Court, and that said record be ordered to be printed and the argument of the case set down for as early a day as may be possible and proper, to the end that the proper judgment may be entered on said appeal.

ACTION ON WOOD'S CASE ALSO.

The Attorney General today also served upon Robert J. Hays, attorney for Joseph Wood, who is now awaiting execution by electricity in Sing Sing Prison for the murder of Charles Kellin, a laborer on the Croton aqueduct, on March 9, 1890, the petition and notice of his proposed motion on March 9 in United States Supreme Court to dismiss the appeal from a decision of Judge Addison Brown granting the request for a writ of habeas corpus. The same action in this case is asked for as in the case of Jugro, and for the same reason. The request for the writ of habeas corpus was based upon the ground that from the panels and lists of jurors where the Grand jury and petit jury in the trial were drawn, and from said jury list, persons of African race and descent and Black in color were excluded, because and by reason of their race, descent and color, and that they have been excluded for a like reason in this State.

In his petition the Attorney General says:—"No claim can be made by the appellant that there has been anything in the action of the State of New York in the nature of legislation or by the holding of its courts by which there has been any discrimination in the selection of the Grand jury and petit jury on the basis of race or color; it was his duty to have raised this objection at the time of his trial and not wait until there had been a judgment of conviction and an affirmation thereof by the highest court of the State."

GORDON MADE BUT ONE WILL.

MR. H. D. VAN WYCK SAYS HE HAS LETTERS TO
PROVE THAT ASSERTION TRUE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 16, 1891.—Mr. H. D. Van Wyck, around whom considerable interest has centered since the recent publications about the Gordon will, arrived here from California to-day. He is much improved in health and has not looked better in a long time. After reaching the city he read the publications referred to and to-night sent telegrams to the New York papers.

He said that he felt pained and outraged at the statements that had been made. In reference to his leaving home the day before last, Mr. Van Wyck before said married Mr. Gordon, he said he never heard of her before she married that gentleman. As to his having brought on from California a bogus body for that of Mrs. Van Wyck, he said the remains are now in a vault at Fishkill, N. Y., to disprove such a charge; that they were examined at the time by the immediate members of his own family; that a number of his friends were present at the funeral; that it was upon the advice of an undertaker at Fishkill that the funeral was held at that place; that he had been badly embalmed and was in a state of decomposition.

He left for New York to-day on business. He says that Mr. Gordon never attempted to make but one will, and that was the one set aside by the Court shortly before his death. He said he has letters in his possession which will prove this statement true. If he should prove that the will referred to was the one made it will of course simplify matters, but the claimants under the will recently admitted to probate in Norfolk and New York quite apt to make a lively fight over the matter.

PROTEST BEFORE THE COURT.

The legal battle for possession of the property of Millionaire George P. Gordon under the will found twelve years after his property had been distributed was begun yesterday before Chancellor McGill in Jersey City.

An application was made by Henry J. Cullen, Jr., who was administrator of the estate, to have the probate of the recently found will opened, so that he could come in and contest the probate. General Cullen is a brother-in-law of the late Mr. Gordon, who appeared for Mr. Cullen, maintained that a party in interest because he had distributed the estate, and would be held accountable for it, should not be allowed to contest the probate. He was a genuine will.

Ex-Mayor Gilbert Collins, of Jersey City, representing Mrs. Cullen, and the late Assemblyman William H. Corbin, of Jersey City, appeared for the new will, resisted Mr. Cullen's application on the ground that as a foreign agent he had no standing to contest the probate, and moved that the proceedings be dismissed. Chancellor McGill will give his decision to-morrow.

Mr. Cullen then applied for the appointment of a receiver to take charge of the Gordon Press works at Rahway, N. J., which are now in possession of the late Mr. Gordon's estate. The application was not opposed, and Chancellor McGill will give his decision to-morrow.

THE HERALD this morning received the following despatch from Mr. Van Wyck, which is referred to by our Norfolk correspondent:—"To the Editor of the Herald:—California I read for the first time the account in the Herald of February 3 about the Gordon will. That account is a tissue of misstatements from beginning to end, and at the proper time and in a proper manner will be satisfactorily shown. Please publish this."

"NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 16, 1891."

THEY FOUGHT LIKE BEES.

FATAL BATTLE WITH AXES BETWEEN TWO DES-
PERATE DANISH WOODCHOPPERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

DEADWOOD, S. D., Feb. 16, 1891.—News has just reached Deadwood of a fight with axes between Danes employed chopping wood on Elk Creek, sixteen miles from this city. There had been blood between the two for some months. They met in the cabin of a common acquaintance yesterday afternoon. Several drinks of whiskey were taken, and the two men began to quarrel.

Both grabbed axes. Max Selbeck swung his around quickly, letting the keen edge of his weapon strike the head of Charles Smith's face. The man's head was cut off at the neck, and he fell back and before the horrified bystanders could interfere Selbeck had rained three or four blows on his prostrate victim, breaking his back and cutting his horrible gashes in his side and hips. Despite his frightful wounds, Smith is still alive, but is not expected to survive more than a few hours.

Selbeck was arrested and brought in to-night. He appears indifferent to Smith's fate or what will be his own if the former dies.

ROBBED HIS GRANDMOTHER.

DANVILLE, Va., Feb. 16, 1891.—A remarkable and daring case of robbery is reported from Mount Airy, N. C. Harry Taylor, a youth of seventeen, is the grandson of Samuel H. Taylor, of Mount Airy. He and an accomplice named Stone went to Mr. Taylor's residence in the absence of the old gentleman, and one of them held Mrs. Taylor down while the other took the safe key from her pocket and proceeded to rob the safe.